

XLVII.

Reply of the English Ministers to the request to send back Cabot.

And as for Sebastian Cabot answere was first made to the said Amb.^{or} that he was not detained heere by us, but that he of himself refused to go either into Spayne or to the emp^{or}, and that he being of that mind and the kinges subiecte, no reason nor equitie wolde that he shulde be forced or compelled to go against his will. Upon the w^{ch} aunswere, the said Am^{dor} said that if this were Cabottes aunswere then he required that the said Cabot in the presence of some one whom we could appointe might speke with the said Amb^{dor} and declare unto him this to be his mind and aunswere wherunto we condescended, and at the last, sent the said Cabot wth Richard Shelley to thembassador. Who as the said Shelley hathe made report to us, affirmed to the said Amb^{dor} that he was not minded to go neither into Spayne nor to themp^{or} Nevertheles having knowlege, of certain thinges verie necessarie for the Emp^{ors} knowlege, he was well contented for the good well he bere themp^{or} to write his mind unto him, or declare the same here to enie such as shulde be appointed to heare him. Wherunto the said amb^{dor} asked the said Cabot, in case the kinges ma^{tie} or we shuld command him to go to themp^{or} whether then he wold not do it? Wherunto Cabot made aunswere as Shelley reportethe that if the kinges highnes or we did command him so to do, then he knew wel inoughe what he had to do. But it semeth that the amb^{dor} tooke this aunswere of Cabot to sound as though Cabot had answered, that being commanded by the Kinges highnes or us that then he wolde be contented to go to the emp^{or} wherein we reken the said Amb^{dor} to be deceived, forthat the said Cabot had divers times before declared unto us that he was fullie determined not to go hens at all.

Grenewich, 25 april 1550. The counsail to sir Ph. H.
[British Museum, Harleyan Mss. 523 f. q.]